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Tia Nelson, *Executive Secretary*

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For Immediate Release

DATE: March 23, 2015

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RECORD \$35.5 MILLION FUND DISTRIBUTION ENOUGH TO PUT A BOOK IN THE HAND OF EVERY WISCONSIN CHILD

WISCONSIN DELLS – Wisconsin's K-12 public school libraries will receive \$35.5 million, thanks to record earnings from the [Common School Fund](#), the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) announced today. Board Chair Brad D. Schimel, Attorney General, and Commissioner Doug La Follette, Secretary of State, presented Kurt Kiefer, Assistant State Superintendent of Public Instruction, with a ceremonial check at the Wisconsin Educational & Media Technology Association's (WEMTA) annual conference at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. Commissioner Matt Adamczyk, State Treasurer, was unable to attend.

To see funding for your school district, click [here](#) or visit <http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/docview.asp?docid=26522&locid=145>.

The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands was established in 1848 by Article 10 of the Wisconsin Constitution. The BCPL manages the [Common School Fund](#), which was created in the Constitution as a permanent endowment to benefit public education.

The BCPL generates earnings for the Common School Fund by investing in community projects across the state through the [State Trust Fund Loan Program](#). Trust Fund earnings are distributed annually to public schools and are the sole source of state funding for public school libraries. For many school districts, this is the only money available for library materials including books, newspapers and periodicals, web-based resources, and computer hardware and software. The funds distributed today are enough to put a book in the hand of every child in Wisconsin.

In a joint statement, Commissioners Schimel, La Follette and Adamczyk said, "Thanks to BCPL investments in local projects throughout the state, communities receive support for economic development projects, public infrastructure improvements, and the purchase of capital equipment and vehicles. Many of these expenditures provide law enforcement personnel and first responders with the equipment needed to keep their communities safe. The fact that earnings from BCPL investments continue to benefit public school libraries 167 years after statehood would make the founding fathers of Wisconsin immensely proud. Schools and communities benefit from this investment, and the BCPL is pleased to distribute record Common School Trust Fund earnings in 2015."

This 2015 library aid distribution is the largest in the long history of the BCPL. In an era of historically low interest rates, BCPL commissioners are proud to have maintained stable earnings distributions.

To download a photo of today's event click [here](#) or visit <https://onedrive.live.com/redir?resid=C1DC084DC89253A%21126>

For more information on the Board, visit: <http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov>.

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March 23, 2015 – Kalahari Resort & Conference Center, Wisconsin Dells, WI

Secretary of State Doug La Follette (center) and Attorney General Brad D. Schimel (right) present \$35.5 million in Common School Fund earnings to Assistant State Superintendent Kurt Kiefer (left), Department of Public Instruction.